

Three-Legged Man

Review Key Words

- disabilities** Disabilities are conditions that make it hard for a person to do physical or mental tasks that most people can do.
- embarrassed** Embarrassed means uncomfortable and nervous in front of other people.
- unusual** If something is unusual, it is strange or different from what you see most of the time.
- appreciate** Appreciate means to enjoy or see the value in something.



Read the Story²⁻⁴

5 Some people **complain** about being
 10 different from other people. Francesco
 16 Lentini could have complained, but he
 23 didn't. Francesco led a happy life even
 30 though his body was **unusual**. He had
 32 three legs!

32 Francesco was born on the island of
 39 Sicily in 1889. Doctors believed his
 45 third leg was part of an **undeveloped**
 52 **conjoined twin**. This leg could not be
 59 removed without danger to Francesco's
 64 life. As Francesco got older, lots of
 71 people stared and asked questions about
 77 his third leg. At first Francesco felt
 84 **embarrassed**. But then he visited a
 90 hospital where he saw children who had

97 serious **disabilities**. Many of them were
 103 **deaf**, blind, or **unable** to speak.
 109 Francesco began to **appreciate**
 113 everything he was able to do.

119 After that visit, Francesco did not
 125 mind that his body was different. He
 132 did not let his third leg **prevent** him
 140 from having new experiences. He
 145 learned to drive a car, ride a bike, and
 154 ice-skate. When he swam, his extra leg
 162 helped him **steer**. He could even use
 169 his third leg to kick a ball across a
 178 room! Francesco was glad to be able to
 186 do so many things. He even said, "I
 194 think life is beautiful and I enjoy living
 202 it."

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Three-Legged Man

Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. Francesco's third leg was part of an undeveloped conjoined twin.
 - b. Francesco used his third leg to help him steer when he swam.
 - c. Francesco led a happy life even though he had three legs.
2. Why didn't the doctors remove Francesco's third leg?
 - a. He was happy being a three-legged man.
 - b. Removing his leg might have killed him.
 - c. The doctors did not know how to remove his leg.
3. What does the word **steer** mean in this story?
 - a. to swim
 - b. to go faster
 - c. to guide
4. Why didn't Francesco complain about being different?
 - a. He knew that others had bigger problems.
 - b. He knew that the doctors could not remove his leg.
 - c. He knew that people would always stare at him.
5. Why might Francesco's story make people feel hopeful?

6. An antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning of another word. Match each word with its antonym.

1. prevent	a. ___ grown
2. unusual	b. ___ proud
3. undeveloped	c. ___ normal
4. embarrassed	d. ___ help

PARENT TIPS

Researchers have shown that reading drastically improves when students are asked to read out loud. If you hear your child make a reading error, do not jump in immediately to correct it. Let him or her read to the end of the sentence or the end of the paragraph. If readers are listening to themselves read, they will be able to hear what they said aloud did not make sense. Most students will automatically reread and self-correct their error.

--Week-by-Week Homework for Building Reading Comprehension and Fluency: Grade 1